Improvement in quality of drinking water

1727. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of sincere efforts by the Central Government, the States have not improved the quality of drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether guideline issued by Government to the States in regard to routine analysis of samples for physico-chemicals and microbial quality are not being followed by States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Central Government assists the State Governments in implementation of rural drinking water supply schemes by providing technical and financial assistance through the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply. 85% of the rural drinking water supply schemes are based on ground-water sources. Problems due to chemical contamination of ground water namely arsenic, fluoride, salinity and nitrate get aggravated due to various reasons like over-extraction of ground water for irrigation purposes, lack of recharge of aquifers due to recurrent droughts and anthropogenic pollution due to industrial waste etc. All the above reasons contribute to the deterioration of drinking water quality from ground water sources.

(c) and (d) As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply the guidelines issued by Government of India to States for routine analysis of samples for physico-chemical and microbial quality are being followed by the States by and large.

Fluoride and Nitrate in the Ground Water

1728. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has conducted any survey in the country so far to find out the quantity of fluoride and nitrate present in the ground water, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating separately the percentage level of fluoride and nitrate found in ground water of Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the last three years till date; and

(c) what remedial measures Central Government have taken so far in this regard, indicating budgetary allocations, in any, made State-wise during 2005-06, particularly in Delhi, Maharashtra and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. fluoride and nitrate content in excess of permissible limit from ground water has been reported in localized pockets in various parts of the country. The concentration of fluoride and nitrate in ground water in the States of Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the last three years till date is given below:-

Delhi: During the last three years, higher levels of fluoride (above 1.5 parts per million) have been observed from localized pockets in parts of Northwest, Southwest and West districts. Nitrate in excess of permissible limit (above 100 ppm) has been reported from parts of Southwest, West and South districts.

Maharashtra: Fluoride concentration in ground water in excess of permissible limit has been reported from parts of Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Hingoli, Jalna, Nagpur, Nanded, Parbhani, Sholapur and Sindhudurg districts. Nitrate concentration in ground water in excess of permissible limit has been reported from Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Nashik, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Pune, Sholapur, Wardha and Yavatmal districts.

Rajasthan: Districts having above permissible limit include Ajmer, Banner, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sikar and Sirohi. Nitrate concentration excess of permissible limit has been reported from Barmer, Bikaner and Churu districts.

(c) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate schemes to provide people with contamination free water. However, Central Ground Water

Board (CGWB) monitors ground water quality periodically to map the changes in it and apprises the State Governments of the same for taking necessary remedial measures. It has also drilled exploratory wells tapping contamination free aquifer zones and has handed over these wells to the State Governments, free of cost, for utilisation.

Department of Drinking Water supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development, is also rendering financial and technical assistance to the States for tackling water quality problems in rural areas through a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). 15% of ARWSP funds have been exclusively earmarked for Sub Mission project for tackling water quality problems. With effect from 01.04.1998, powers to sanction Sub Mission Projects have .been delegated to States.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति महोदय ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप लोग आकर मुझे बैठ तो जाने दो। ...(व्यवधान)... मेरे बैठने के बाद आप ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे बैठने तो दो। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं अलाऊ नहीं कर रहा हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, जो बात सुबह हो रही थी, या तो उस बीच में कोई समाधान निकलता। ...(व्यवधान)... कोई समाधान नहीं हुआ। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, this is the most important matter ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu) Sir, it is a genocide ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजू परमार (गुजरात) : सर सदन की कार्यवाही चलनी चाहिए।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, 1984 में जो घटा ...(व्यवधान)... वह नरसंहार था, वह genocide था, वह कत्लेआम था और उस कत्लेआम के * आज सत्ता में बैठे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : यह अखबार मत दिखाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... अखबार नहीं दिखाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

---

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.